

The text of the night report was as follows:

There has been no important development in the general fighting. On our right wing we have advanced in the direction of Altkirk and near that town.

It should be noted that during the day of December 2 we captured 20 prisoners in the northern region alone.

The report of the afternoon mentioned artillery fighting between Ypres and Roulers and an unsuccessful attack by German infantry. There was quiet elsewhere in the Argonne, where the Germans were defeated at La Cote. The report was as follows:

In Belgium there has been an intermittent, but fairly spirited, cannonade between the railroad from Ypres to Roulers and the highway between Beersel and Passendale, where the infantry of the enemy endeavored to gain ground, but quite without success.

At Vermelles we are continuing the work of organizing the positions taken from the enemy.

From the Somme the Argonne region there is quiet along the entire front.

In the Argonne there have been several attacks on the part of German infantry, but all were repulsed by our troops, particularly at La Cote, to the northwest of the forest of Givry.

There has been some artillery firing in the Woëvre district and in Lorraine.

There is nothing to report in Alsace.

It is unofficially reported that the Germans are sending reinforcements to Flanders and to Alsace and that the heavy fighting of the next few days may be looked for in these regions.

Certain points in the recent news from London and Paris go toward supporting the information contained in the foregoing despatch—that the time has come for the Allies to launch a powerful offensive drive. A despatch says England now has 400,000 fresh troops at the front and holds the line of the Yser. The value of King George near the front is an indication that the Allies have the situation well in hand and that great events are forward. A further suggestion is contained in the confident statement made recently by Gen. Joffre in Thion to the Alsations: "We are here to stay." Military writers are beginning to value the Allies of the steadily increasing Russian force in Poland and declare that Germany has been forced to weaken her armies in the west to stay the Russian peril. Finally, it is officially announced by the Russian General Staff that reinforcements from the west are being sent to the German armies in Poland.

## FRENCH NEARING METZ.

Bombard Town Nine Miles Away and Threaten German Lines.

Special Cable Despatch to The Sun.

LONDON, Dec. 5.—A despatch from Nancy to the Times, dated Thursday, says:

"Two movements have taken place lately near Pont-a-Mousson and Cirey, both of which may have an important bearing on the future course of the war.

"From somewhere near Pont-a-Mousson, which is every day the target for a few German shells, the French have bombarded at a range of eight miles, the town of Arras, just beyond Paris-sur-Meuse, nine miles short of Metz.

As it lies in the direct line of the German communications, by which their advanced forces are supplied, the town of the Woëvre are supplied with ammunition and provisions from Metz, its destruction would be a heavy blow to the enemy.

The bombardment of Arras is a matter that affects the possible retreat of the Germans from the Woëvre.

"What has happened and is happening near Cirey is of great importance. The advance of the French into German Lorraine. There are several signs that the Germans do not expect their tenacity of Cirey to be able to hold out for long. It may be said to have already given notice of their intention to quit.

"The other day there arrived at Nancy over 200 refugees who had been expelled by the enemy from the villages of Val-et-Chillon and Petit Mont, both close to Cirey. The sudden expulsion of this whole body probably due to the fact that the Germans want to get rid of all hostile witnesses of what they are doing, for in the canton of Cirey they are at the present moment constructing a kind of vast fortified camp.

"In the whole region, especially along the twelve miles of road from Blamont to Sarburg, they are hard at work, aided by able bodied prisoners from the evacuated villages, on an elaborate series of defensive earthworks, consisting chiefly of concrete trenches and carefully concealed batteries. The ground over which they expect the French advance is further fortified by a large number of mines.

"This can only mean, here as elsewhere, that the Germans are beginning to make up their minds to the fact that their attack has failed and that before long it will be their turn to stand against invasion."

## FEAR FOR STRASSBURG.

Germans Dig Trenches to Keep French Out of City.

Special Cable Despatch to The Sun.

PARIS, Dec. 4.—A despatch from Basel says the Germans have placed artillery in the squares before the church and City Hall in Colmar in order to draw the French artillery fire to these points, thus obliging the French to bombard and destroy Colmar, although it is an open town.

Great preparations have been made around Strassburg to prevent the French troops from advancing. Many lines of trenches have been dug in the valleys of the Bruche. Forests and parks have been leveled to facilitate the defence. The suburbs of Strassburg have been flooded and all preparations have been made to extend the flooding south and west of the city. Whole districts of Muehlhausen have been mined.

The French advance on the side of Colmar has been very marked. The French also are making progress to the north of Thann and they almost completely surround Gebweiler.

## RHEIMS BADLY DAMAGED.

No Part of Town Has Escaped German Gunfire.

By Central News.

COPENHAGEN, Dec. 4.—A private despatch from Berlin says Rheims has been terribly damaged by the German bombardment. No part of the town has escaped.

Heavy fighting is expected in the Woëvre. Great numbers of Germans are moving from the Rhine to the Vosges.

## KAISER 'MORE MUSTACHOED.'

"And More Cosmeticked Than Ever," Says Writer Who Saw Him.

Special Cable Despatch to The Sun.

PARIS, Dec. 4.—Some official declaration regarding the Kaiser's mustache would seem desirable. One paper today quotes an eyewitness who was recently at Metz as saying of the Kaiser:

"He was scarcely recognizable with his mustache cut quite close, tooth brush fashion, as people say."

On the other hand, a correspondent arriving at Antwerp yesterday says the Emperor is now clean shaven.

To this the reply was that the report was false and that the German Emperor now "more mustachioed and more cosmeticked than ever."

# Petrograd Hears Germans Have Lost Battle of Lodz

Correspondent With Russian Army Sends Word That Kaiser's Forces Lost 100,000 Men and Many Cannon Fighting Their Way Out of Trap.

CZAR'S TROOPS SHELLING FIVE FORTS AT CRACOW

Special Cable Despatch to The Sun.

PETROGRAD, Dec. 4.—The following statement issued by the Russian General Staff to-night indicates that the fighting in Poland, which is now along a continuous line from Plock to Petrograd, has not yet produced a decisive result:

On the left bank of the Vistula on December 3 there was obstinate fighting along the Glinow-Lowicz front and along the western roads toward Lodz and Petrograd.

There has been no essential modification of the situation on the other fronts.

There have been no engagements of consequence in the Caucasus.

CLAIMS LODZ VICTORY.

Despatch From Front Tells of German Defeat.

Special Cable Despatch to The Sun.

LONDON, Dec. 4.—The Bourse Gazette of Petrograd has received a despatch from a correspondent with the Russian army that the battle at Lodz has ended in victory for the Russians.

The correspondent asserts that great numbers of German prisoners and many cannon and machine guns are being brought to Lodz.

Petrograd newspapers publish the statement that the Germans lost 100,000 men in fighting their way out of the trap set for them at Lodz and have been unable to renew the offensive on account of terrible losses and exhaustion.

Lacking the confirmation of the Russian General Staff there is a disposition here to accept these reports with reserve, particularly since the latest Russian official announcement indicates that the Germans have been heavily reinforced from Silesia and are forcing the fighting in some areas. Conservative military critics maintain, however, that the Germans are merely wasting their strength against Russia's masses and that the day of invasion for Silesia cannot be far off.

Without doubt, the Russians have been victorious in front of Cracow and the news indicates that the five forts are being shelled. If the Czechs troops are numerous enough Cracow can be masked as the Germans masked Maubeuge and can pass the fortress into southeastern Silesia.

The Petrograd correspondent of the Morning Post infers that there is something wrong with the defenses of Cracow if the Russians have been able, as the new states, to approach Wielezka, within eight miles of the city. Wielezka being well within the range of the outer defense guns.

The Russian official report indicates that there is little hope of a relief for Cracow from the south, since the Russians have passed through the Dukla Pass into Hungary, and the Austrians at Wilezka have been scattered and driven back through the mountains. If help comes it must be from an Austro-German force operating on the Kalisz-Wieliczka-Cracow line, and this force appears to have its hands full at present.

FRANCE TELLS ARMY

KAISER IS BEATEN

Official Report Refers to Seven

Futile Bashes of the

Germans.

BOULOGNE, Dec. 4.—The Bulletin des Armées, reviewing at length the military operations since the outbreak of the war, sums up the French situation on December 1 as follows:

"The French Army today is equal to what it was on August 2, all the units having maintained their full strength. The quality of the troops has improved. Our men today fight like veterans. They are all deeply imbued with their superiority and have absolute faith that they will be victorious."

"The higher command, renewed on a count of necessary dismissals, has not committed during the past three months any of those faults noted and punished in August."

"The supplies of artillery and ammunition have been largely increased. The heavy artillery, which we lacked, has been organized and is working well."

"The German army met with several far reaching reverses, namely, the failure of the dash on Nancy, the failure of the march on Paris, the failure of the attempt to roll up our left flank in August, the failure of the same manoeuvre in November, the failure to pierce our centre in September, the failure of the attack on Dunkirk and Calais by the coast and the failure of the attack on Ypres."

U. S. ENVOY SAVES WOMAN.

LONDON, Dec. 4.—An interesting story of how Mr. Gerard, the American Ambassador at Berlin, and T. S. John Galt, the American Consul-General at Munich, saved the Hon. Mary Isabel Portman, daughter of Viscount Portman, from a German jail has just leaked out through the art of the Miss Portman at her father's home here.

Several months before the war Miss Portman, who had been a resident of Munich for seven years, contracted the erection of a house at a cost of \$100,000. Just before the war she paid half the amount and after hostilities had begun she was quite willing to pay the balance, but could not get her money out of the bank because of the moratorium and her father could not send it to her because under the trading with an enemy act the money was not to be sent to the German contractors.

"The contractors got a warrant for the arrest of Miss Portman. She appealed to Mr. Galt, who obtained \$50,000 bail for her. The matter was then taken up by Ambassador Gerard, who paid the \$50,000 to the contractors out of his own pocket, and when the money was placed in the hands of the contractors Miss Portman was allowed to leave Germany."

Mr. Galt is now in London and Lord Portman has handed him the \$50,000 to take back to Mr. Gerard.

It is admitted in Berlin that the Russians have not halted their attack in East Prussia because of the situation in Poland, but the statement is made that the Russians have repulsed east of the Masurian Lakes.

The Paris Journal's correspondent with the Russian General Staff telegraphs his belief that the battle in Poland is a fierce one and that the Germans are reforming their lines and fighting furiously again in progress. He states that the western section of the battle front begins at Zdunska Wola on the Warthe River, passes through Zielz and Strykow and ends at Bielawa and Sobota, about twelve miles west of Lodz.

"At present," he says, "on the German left, near Lodz, the adversaries are engaged in stubborn attacks and counter attacks. Each side is trying to turn the other's flank to prevent a general offensive. The advantage there remains with the Russians."

"The Germans are feverishly pushing forward reinforcements. They are stubbornly sticking to their offensive ideas, although their strategy in this theatre is really defensive. The offensive policy is due to the fact that if they retreat a great Russian army will swarm into Silesia. They are trying to turn both Russian flanks."

"On the left, near Lodz, they are falling and have to support the severe Russian strain. On their right, near their own border, the German task is even greater. Reinforcements have arrived from Kaiser's army of Wladimir, which the Russians suddenly hurled back on November 23, has reformed, swelled by a guard brigade, and the attention given to it shows the importance of the position. The von Hindenburg attaches to this army."

100,000 GERMANS TAKEN?

Petrograd So Estimates Captures Made in Five Days.

Special Cable Despatch to The Sun.

LONDON, Dec. 5.—The Daily Mail's Petrograd correspondent sends the following under yesterday's date:

"A competent estimate puts the losses of the enemy for the five days spent in the 'monstrous' near Lodz at 100,000. Reports from Warsaw and Minsk show that several thousand prisoners are passing eastward every day."

Yesterday's early morning attack by the Germans in close order near Lodz again cost them dear. Their fondness for night attacks has become familiar and they are no longer surprises. As usual on such occasions they let the day pass quietly, so that they will be able to launch a false feeling of security. This hope was disappointed when, soon after midnight, the approaching masses received a murderous fire from the Russian guns.

"The German troops again showed wonderful disregard of danger. The solid columns came on until the Russians leaped out of the trenches, and in a hand to hand struggle of men the Germans were repulsed. The value of this arm of the service, in which the Russian General Staff so firmly believes, has been emphasized during the last few days."

"The German attack in the direction of Lodz was repulsed mainly by charges of dragons and hussars, which demoralized the enemy before he could organize the main body of the Russians."

SAYS GERMANS ARE

20 MILES FROM VERDUN

English Correspondent Asserts

That French Fort Is

Not Menaced.

Special Cable Despatch to The Sun.

LONDON, Dec. 4.—The Daily Chronicle prints the following despatch from one of its correspondents in France:

"IN THE FRENCH LINES, VERDUN, Dec. 2.—The great central doorway of the Lorraine frontier is not only banded, barred and bolted against the invader but it covers an area, if not of perfect peace, at least of perfect security. Verdun has been advertised by the German commanders as about to be subjected to a close investment. They even claimed to have captured some of the forts. No doubt the German people imagine it is besieged."

"I wish some of my representatives—if they have any free men who could tell them the simple truth—could have accompanied us in at least part of a tour of inspection, who has seen the forts and the army of the German General Staff. Their communications are unbroken; it is the centre of a district in which there is no menace."

"On the northern and north-eastern fronts, the German General Staff are at least twenty miles before the German gunfire is reached. The road to the city through Argonne is as safe and quiet as the road from York to London. On the northern front the German touch the Meuse at only a single point, St. Mihiel."

"To reach it from Metz there is only one single difficult road, and all along that line the position of the Germans is exceedingly precarious. Around the semi-circle north of Verdun the French armies make slow but steady progress. They are prepared for winter as well as any army can be."

"I spoke to many of the men at different points, and there is not the least doubt about the high quality of the perfect confidence. I spoke also to a number of officers. They struck me as men of marked intelligence and vigor, possessed of a high sense of duty and seeing the moral and political issues of the war very much as we see them ourselves, and watching closely over the safety and comfort of their troops. They felt, and seemed to me justified in feeling, themselves invincible, enjoying an impregnable position."

"The secret of this important success at the pivoting point of the western campaign is not the strength of the fixed defenses at Verdun, for many of the forts have not fired a shot. It is that the army has never lost its freedom of action. For the moment all danger has now passed on the eastern frontier."

"In our journey we were privileged to meet and to spend some hours with Gen. (name deleted), and it seemed to me that the fairness with which he explained to us the purpose and character of the operations exemplified a new type of mind which modern conditions are producing, even in places where the conservative spirit often lingers."

# ALLIES ON THE OFFENSIVE, IS BERLIN REPORT

Germans Say Enemy's Efforts to Advance Have Been Checked.

RUSSIANS REPULSED;

KAISER IS IN BERLIN

BERLIN, via wireless to London, Dec. 4.—The official statement to-day by the General Staff shows that the enemy's troops in Flanders have taken the offensive, but that the Germans have repulsed all attacks. The statement follows:

In the western theatre of war French attacks against our troops in Flanders were repeatedly repulsed, as they were also in the region north-west of Aldirch where the French suffered considerable losses.

In the eastern theatre of war the enemy's attacks east of the plan of the Masurian Lakes were repulsed with heavy losses to the Russians.

Our offensive in Poland is taking its normal course. His Majesty the Emperor arrived in Berlin last night for a short stay.

GERMAN STATEMENT.

Belgo-British Agreement Reported Proved by New Documents.

BERLIN, Dec. 4, via wireless to Saville, L. 1.—The official German press bureau announced this morning that the agreement between Madrid telling of an attack on the garrison at Blanca, Morocco, by Moorish rebels, Constantinople reports given by the same bureau say that there has been fighting between the French and Senegalese tribesmen in southern Morocco in which the French were defeated. The leader of the Senegalese was killed.

The bureau announces that it is reported in Constantinople that England intends to send Portuguese troops into Egypt and that Mohammedan soldiers in Tunis are being embarked for service in Europe. The official statement continues:

"The Russian military newspaper, Russky Invalid, states that the number of Russian officers killed, wounded or taken prisoner now totals 33,000."

"The German military authorities have taken measures to prevent famine among the inhabitants of the parts of Russian Poland occupied by the German army. Rotterdam reports that in the Boer farms in South Africa there are to be found only Dutch men and natives; the men are at the front."

"Rudolph Moeller, a German, a foreign resident of Morocco, has sworn to an affidavit which confirms the fact that German civilians arrested in Morocco at the outbreak of the war have been transported to Oran, Algeria, where French officers incited soldiers to commit brutalities upon them. Two men and one woman died of ill treatment."

"German troops have discovered in the western zone of the war secret instructions prepared by the British General Staff, which contain detailed information concerning the Belgian border, the disposition of rolling stock on the railroads and the strength of the army. These instructions could have been prepared only with the active assistance of the Belgian Government, which supplied the detailed information contained in them."

"The Belgians have been informed and Belgium decided long ago on English military activity in Belgium, and this means a violation of neutrality."

"The Persian Government has handed to the British Minister at Teheran a note protesting against the violation of Persian neutrality by the entrance of British warships into the Persian Gulf."

"Athenian reports that England has landed 34,000 Canadian volunteers in Egypt."

"The fifth Austrian army has occupied Belgrade."

"The London Globe threatens the complete blocking of the North Sea."

"Bulgaria contradicts the Greek report of a concentration of Hungarian troops."

"Rome reports that Abyssinia has declined the Anglo-French demand to send troops to the Sudan in Egypt."

"German newspapers of all political parties declare that the promise of the Imperial Chancellor to lead the war to a victorious conclusion is the only expectation of the entire nation."

SERVIANS BEATEN AGAIN.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 4.—The following bulletin issued by the Austro-Hungarian Embassy here today:

"In Serbia the enemy, resisting with all its forces on the east of the River Kalubara and in the district of Belgrade, fought on the whole line, was bested and retired with considerable loss."

"Since the beginning of the last offensive the enemy has lost 10,000 men. The front in west Galicia and Russian Poland was generally quiet yesterday. On the front before Przemyśl the enemy, trying to approach from the north of the fortress, was repulsed by a counter attack from the garrison."

"The commander of the fifth army sent the Emperor a telegram of homage announcing the capture of Belgrade by the Austro-Hungarian troops. An attack of the Russians near Wobrow was repulsed. Otherwise there was relative calm."

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# Kaiser Angered When Hungary Demanded Aid

Premier's Mission to Berlin Explained—Successful, He Says, but Opposition Papers Call It an Utter Failure.

SOME SUGGEST SEPARATE HUNGARIAN PEACE

Special Cable Despatch to The Sun.

LONDON, Dec. 4.—The correspondent of a Hungarian newspaper has received from Budapest a letter which describes an unsuccessful appeal made by the Hungarian Prime Minister, Count Tisza, to the Kaiser for German troops to defend Hungary from the Russians. In Berlin Count Tisza was passed from one official to another until finally he reached the Kaiser. He told the Kaiser squarely that his Cabinet would resign and that he could not guarantee the loyalty or good will of Hungary unless Germany paid more attention to the interests of his country. The Kaiser was annoyed, then furious, then alarmed. The letter adds:

"Count Tisza says the Emperor at first became quite furious and said something to the effect that open enemies are not always the most dangerous enemies, and that the egotism of some people was likely to upset the whole plan of campaign. Nevertheless, he agreed to consult the General Staff on the question, and promised to do all he could to satisfy the Hungarians."

"The conversation must have been quite interesting. I learn from another quarter—I don't know whether it is true or not—that the Emperor trembled with emotion when Count Tisza intimated that the Cabinet would have to resign, and intimated him not to aggravate the strain which his position imposed upon him in these anxious times, and when he said 'I was almost crying.'"

"Hungarian newspapers are expressing dissatisfaction and say that Hungary has been reduced to the pass of begging aid from Germany. An official statement issued by Count Tisza on his return said that his mission had had a most satisfactory result. It is recorded in the Morning Post article that the mission had a most unsatisfactory result."

The Post Herald, an opposition newspaper, declared that Germany had made Austria-Hungary a vassal, and criticized the seizure by the Germans of the command of the Austro-Hungarian armies. The result was that the police confiscated the Herald.

The letter says that uneasiness is growing everywhere, and that a section of the national committee is about to start peace propaganda, apparently claiming Hungary's right as an independent state to make peace separately. The writer doubts, however, that the movement will be successful, although a majority of the Hungarian people will undoubtedly support any movement which will conceivably lead to the agitation for full Hungarian independence.

Anyway the time for the propaganda is well chosen, for the rage of the people against Austria and Germany is growing. As regards the Russian invasion, the letter says that the situation is worse than at the last writing. The writer understood that four Russian army corps in the Carpathians have occupied all passes and are advancing southward in great numbers, sweeping everything before them. The Hungarians opposing the invasion are less than half the number of the Russians and lack artillery.

The Slovak population in the Carpathians are utterly indifferent, for many believe that only manoeuvres are being enacted. Very few young men are leaving the villages, practically all being in America. The writer represents that Hungarians in Budapest and elsewhere are impatient because of the meagre details in the official announcements of the war, and know nothing of the progress of the battle in Poland except such as this: "There is nothing to report from the western theatre. There is no change in Galicia."

A comic paper paraphrased this by saying: "We didn't win in the west and we were beaten in Galicia." The police confiscated the paper.

KITCHENER INTERVIEW

DENIED BY WAR OFFICE

Story Written by Irvin Cobb

and Published Here Officially Repudiated.

Special Cable Despatch to The Sun.

LONDON, Dec. 5.—The Daily Mail prints the following statement this morning:

"Our New York correspondent cabled early on Thursday afternoon extracts from the Saturday Evening Post giving Irvin Cobb's account of an interview with Lord Kitchener. The press bureau censors delayed the cable for several hours. We received it untouched and it was passed for publication just after midnight."

"At 10 P. M. yesterday (Friday), again a full-day late, the press bureau issues the following statement:

"In reference to the so-called interview with Lord Kitchener by Mr. Cobb, which appeared in the press, although Lord Kitchener saw Mr. Cobb for a few minutes on October 21, nothing of the nature of a special interview was granted. The remarks attributed to the Secretary of State for War are imaginary."

Irvin Cobb was reached by telephone at his apartments last evening and told of the statement issued by the British official bureau.

"On October 21 by arrangement made by a third party," he said, "I called on Lord Kitchener in his office. While, of course, I did not have pencil and paper with me at the time I have a reasonably good memory of what I saw and heard. I have considerable experience at interview work and in the article I wrote I know I caught his meaning. I am positive that I reproduced the text of what he said fairly and accurately. I did not misrepresent him. I did not misinterpret him."

Mr. Cobb said that five hours after the interview he told the gist of it to John P. McEntee, of Chicago, who was his travelling companion. He said he felt sure that Mr. McEntee would substantiate that what he, Cobb, said at the time is contained in the article.

BAR POSTCARDS OF KAISER.

Allies Protect Men From Punishment of Germans if Captured.

LONDON, Dec. 4.—The British and French military authorities have barred postcards bearing caricatures of Emperor William and the German Crown Prince from the mailing and are trying to prevent the result of a provision in the German military code, which renders prisoners liable with such cards in their possession liable to summary treatment.

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